

# CHICKASAW MESSENGER.

FRANK BURKITT, Editor.

Earnest, Faithful and Courageous, in Defense of The People's Rights.

MESSANGER PUB. CO., Props.

VOL. 17--NO. 48.

OKOLONA, MISSISSIPPI, THURSDAY, APRIL 25, 1889.

\$2.00 PER ANNUM.

## FOR REPRESENTATIVE.

W. E. F. is authorized to represent Hon. John W. F. in a contest for re-election to the Legislature, subject to the decision of the Democracy of Chickasaw in primary election or convention.

W. E. F. is authorized by friends of Col. J. M. Price to represent him as a candidate for one of the seats in the next Legislature, subject to the decision of the Democracy of Chickasaw County in primary election or convention.

## For Assessor.

W. E. F. is authorized to represent W. J. Lyon as a candidate for Assessor of Chickasaw County, subject to the action of the Democratic primary or convention.

Col. H. M. Street has consented to become a candidate for the Legislature from Lauderdale county. He makes a model legislator.

The passengers of the lost steamer Danmark have been heard from. They were taken off the wreck by another steamer and safely landed on the Azores.

Col. J. R. Blanford, of Duck Hill, has declined to become a candidate for State Treasurer and has announced himself as a candidate for re-election to the State Senate.

Bra. A. S. Kyle, of Panola, is making an active canvass in behalf of the Alliance flagging factory. With such men as Kyle, Patty, Beeman and others as managers of the enterprise, it cannot fail to succeed.

Germany, as we expected she would do, has conceded to America nearly everything demanded in the Samoa affair. This has been done before the conference assembled and shows the desire of the Germans to pacify Uncle Sam.

The Medical Association at its recent meeting in Jackson declined to endorse the proposition of the W. C. T. U. to require the teaching of scientific temperance in the public schools. The subject was finally referred to the Superintendent of Education.

Gen. Reuben Davis, of Aberdeen, will soon have his book, "The recollections of Mississippi and Mississippians for fifty years," ready for distribution to subscribers. We have no doubt it will be interesting to the general reader, and we hope it will meet with an immense sale.

The canvass is beginning to warm up and the partisans of the respective aspirants are fast aligning themselves. The MESSENGER will try to keep its readers posted about what is going on, but we want to say to those who expect us to take part in the fight that this is "our off year."

It is said that the Prince of Wales has expressed a great desire to meet Mr. Parnell, the Irish champion. Personally speaking this is no great honor but politically it has a special significance. The meeting will result in thousands of Liberal-Unionists joining the Home Rule ranks.

This is the way to encourage home industries. J. Pollock and Co., of Mobile, last week contracted with the Weston Mill proprietors for their entire output of jeans for a year from now. The transaction will involve \$30,000. A few more firms like Pollock and Co. would help the cause in the South considerably. Merchants, study the question.

The Democracy of Monroe county want a primary election this year, but the bosses say, No! Another camp ground movement may be the result and then the negro votes will be counted by the machine to overwhelm the white people. Colored voters and plenty of them are a great convenience to the ballot manipulators, who are perfectly indifferent as to how they vote. The count is what decides the result, don't you know?

The Federal Court at Little Rock has tried and convicted two or three persons charged with election frauds, but the greater number of the alleged offenders are acquitted. Three parties were tried for alleged violations of law at the noted Plummerville box. One was convicted and fined \$100 and the other two were acquitted. Nothing concerning the theft of the box last November, or the subsequent assassination of Col. Clayton has been elicited and these crimes remain as great a mystery as ever.

## WHITHER ARE WE DRIFTING?

Next Tuesday is the Centennial anniversary of the inauguration of the Father of his Country, and great preparations are being made in New York to properly celebrate the event. One hundred years ago George Washington, the first President of the United States took charge of this Government composed of States lying along the Atlantic coast and comprising a total population of about 3,000,000 people. The vast territory lying between the then settled portion of the country and the Pacific Ocean, embracing an area more than ten times as great as the thirteen original states, was a wilderness inhabited by wild beasts and savage men. At that day the most enthusiastic prognosticator of the rapid growth of the government and the extent of its power and glory little dreamed that in one century our territory would be bounded by the great lakes on the North, the Gulf of Mexico on the South, the Atlantic Ocean on the East and the Pacific on the West; that it would comprise forty-three great States and six territories, and would be inhabited by a population of more than 60,000,000 people. As the eastern States filled up, the man with the plow and hoe turned his face to the setting sun. He subdued the Indians, felled the forest and cultivated the soil, feeling himself and his posterity for many generations secure in the occupancy of the country and never suspecting for a moment that a spirit of aggression and robbery, mis-called progress and development, would in so short a time seize upon his hard earned possessions and deprive him and his children of the comforts and luxuries of a home. The most astute statesmen of the last century regarding the resources of our country in agriculture, mining and manufactures as practically limitless, proclaimed the doctrine that free America offered an asylum for the oppressed of every nation, tongue and clime, and we dare say, not one of them ever imagined for a moment that one hundred years would disclose to their descendants the scenes which are familiar to the readers of the current news of the present day.

Instead of the public lands in the territories being retained by the Government as homesteads for the settler, immense bodies, many times larger than States of the Union, have been given to corporations without adequate consideration. In the States small bodies of land held and cultivated by the farmers are gradually and surely drifting into the hands of speculators and capitalists, so that the number of tramps and landed aristocrats are increasing day by day. Two million of men in this country to-day and their families dependent upon them are homeless and without employment. One hundred thousand persons are rushing with a crazy enthusiasm to Oklahoma to obtain homes when there are only ten thousand quarter sections of land to enter. More than fifty times this amount of better lands has been stolen from the Government by corporations and land sharks during the present generation. Mississippi alone has permitted her children in the common schools to be robbed of about twice as much public land as is contained in the territory of Oklahoma within the past ten years. One hundred years ago, the government under which we live was put in operation by the fathers, who fondly hoped they were bequeathing to posterity a republic, founded upon the God given principle of "equal rights to all and special privileges to none." Yet at the end of the century, three thousand men own and control two thirds of the property valuations of the country, and millions of producers and wage-workers are practically their vassals and serfs. Trusts and combines organized to prey upon the masses of the people are the order of the day and concentrated capital arrogates to itself the control of the Government and is rapidly undermining the liberties of the people. The history of the world discloses the fact that Republics are established by patriotic, self-sacrificing, working men, and are destroyed by immense wealth in the hands of a few selfish, grasping and unscrupulous money lords. King George, with the wealth of Great

Britain at his command could not buy the Continental Congress, but Oaks Ames accomplishes a more difficult job, as to numbers, with his Credit Mobilier stock; the Standard Oil and other monopolies purchase U. S. Senators as any other article on the market, and the common people are corrupted "in blocks of five." Whither are we drifting, and what will be the condition of this Government one hundred years hence?

The avariciousness of man will make him guilty of almost any crime—money or gain will blind the eyes of heretofore honest men and make them commit crimes which, in their more serene moments they would never dream of. This has recently been exemplified in the great rush of boomers to Oklahoma—the territory recently opened up by a proclamation of President Harrison. For the past month or more—in fact, ever since the issuance of the proclamation—great numbers of men, accompanied, of course, by their wives and children, have been gathering on the borders of the promised land, awaiting with impatience the appointed hour for the great rush for claims. Last Friday, by a special order, the great lurch began, and then the pandemonium commenced. Every prospector was armed to the teeth and of necessity in the absence of legal restraint, the strong began to oppress the weak, and as a result, several of the boomers lost their lives. At last accounts this state of things existed and there is every prospect of a continuance of the orgies for a year or two. To make matters worse, we read that the great majority of these men have left farms in different parts of the country which are far more productive than any land in the newly-opened territory, and they will have all the trouble and expense of building houses and other improvements on their newly-acquired property—property which may have cost the lives of several men before they acquire it. But some men are proverbially blind to their own interests, and we think the great majority of the Oklahoma boomers are good specimens of this peculiar class. What's the matter with our Mississippi land? Some of it is far better than any in Oklahoma.

A negro asylum, a technological school and a big appropriation for the militia are among the jobs which will be presented to the next Legislature. If the appropriation hunters only had two or three more institutions properly located, they would have less difficulty to secure the full measure of their demands than now. We presume the friends of our present State institutions will be exceedingly liberal towards these new enterprises, for in helping them they will help themselves. Imagine the superintendents of the asylums, the presidents of the colleges (white and colored), the surgeons of the hospitals, the militia generals and a subservient governor congregated around the State Treasurer, like a lot of gamblers in a pool-room, and hear his Excellency exclaim: "Here's the pot, boys; how much will satisfy each one of you?" Particular attention to the conversation would likely ensue would elicit the fact that there was not cash enough to go round, but a still small voice from a corner of the room might be heard to say: "We can issue a half-million more bonds and float them at 6 per cent." In such a crowd no one would feel enough interest to suggest that the taxpayers would not approve their conduct, but if this copy of the MESSENGER should happen to attract the attention of any member of the conference, muttered curses upon the editor and expressions borrowed from Vanderbilt would not be long, perhaps, but deep as a fathomless shoal.

The case of the notorious "Dick" Hawes, charged with the murder of his wife and children, was called for trial in the Birmingham Criminal Court on Monday last. Hawes is defended by able counsel, who may succeed in saving his neck.

Rev. R. P. Mitchell, some years ago pastor of the M. E. Church at Aberdeen, died in Memphis recently.

## CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

The folks living outside the State who are particularly anxious for Mississippi to have a Constitutional Convention, have their eyes on the clause in the present Constitution that forbids the loaning of the State's credit to corporations, and the one that forbids the payment of the Planters' and Union bank bonds. They would like to see a new Constitution adopted that was silent in regard to these matters, and would not mind paying two or three millions of dollars to fix the thing to suit them, particularly in regard to the bonds.—Aberdeen Examiner.

We desire to suggest to our esteemed contemporary that "the folks living outside the State" will not constitute in whole or in part the delegation to the Constitutional Convention to be held next year, and we have too much confidence in the intelligence of the people of Mississippi to suppose that they cannot elect men to represent their interests now who are as wise and patriotic as the gentlemen who framed the present Constitution 20 years ago. Indeed, we believe a convention chosen by the people now would understand more fully the wants and wishes of the bona fide citizens of the State than the carpet-baggers and negroes, who constituted the majority of the body who gave us the present thing we call a Constitution, and we are not prepared to believe they would be more indifferent to the interests of the people than the alien crew who held high carnival in Mississippi nearly a quarter of a century ago, when the passions and prejudices of the war had not subsided. The intimation that a convention composed of men selected from the body of the people now, would be bought and sold by the holders of the Planters' and Union bank bonds, when the vile crew who framed the organic law of the State could not be purchased by the same crowd, is unworthy the "Examiner." It is a reflection upon the integrity of the good people of the State, which demands an apology at the hands of our Aberdeen friend that we trust he will recognize without unnecessary delay. The Constitutional Convention is coming, Bro. Dalton, and no scare-crowling can frighten it away. You need not give yourself any uneasiness about the new and clean-cut document that the people are determined to have being "silent" concerning the Planters' and Union bank bonds, but you may be very certain the appointing power will go; an elective judiciary will come in its stead and the re-apportionment of the political power of the State will be the outcome, to the end that ballot-box stuffing and bull-dozing may be effectually suppressed, and corrupt machine manipulation relegated to the rear, without endangering the rule of intelligence, backed by honesty and economy in the management of the affairs of the State government. We insist that our able contemporary should lose no sleep on account of that clause in the present Constitution that "forbids the loaning of the State's credit to corporations," also, and feel safe in assuring him there is no danger. Our people have progressed some since 1868, and they are undoubtedly as statesmen-like, as honest and as patriotic as the motley crew who gave to us in that year the document which some people seem to think is such a paragon of perfection.

A singular accident happened to Capt. Phillips, who resides on the county convict farm recently. The Free South says:

"He was sitting by the sounding box of a telephone that connects the farm with Mr. Buchanan's house in Houston. It seems that the lightning first struck one of the posts on which the telephone wire runs and running on the wire to the end burst the sounding box and jumped off and struck Mr. Phillips on the side of the head, running down one side of his person and splitting his clothes as it went. Mr. Childs, who sat near Mr. Phillips, at first thought Phillips was shot."

Mr. Phillips was pretty badly hurt and has been laid up, but we are glad to learn that he is recovering."

The "Greenville Times" favors a Constitutional Convention, and there are indications that other journals in the valley, which have heretofore strenuously opposed the movement, will favor it.

## THE WEEK'S HAPPENINGS.

Picked Up And Put Into Pointed Paragraphs By Our Patient Pencil Pushers.

For a week past the street carmen of Minneapolis have been out on strike. The service is utterly demoralized in consequence.

A large cotton factory is among the "to be's" at Meridian. Northern capitalists are at the helm and, no doubt, the factory will soon be an entity. We hope it may.

Thos. F. Scanlan, otherwise the new England Piano Co., doing business at Boston and New York, threw up the sponge last week. They are "out of tune" to the amount of \$200,000.

New York on Friday had the biggest blaze in its history. Eight complete blocks were burned down and the damage is enormous. Several lives were lost in the conflagration.

The little principality of Bulgaria is threatened with invasion by exiles who have been banished from the State in late years. Rather odd for a handful of men to take the law into their own hands like this.

Perry Wiene, a well-known citizen of Brocton county, W. Va., was on Wednesday felling a tree, when it broke across the stump and fell, demolishing his house and killing his wife and three children.

Coals from the firebox of a locomotive caused the destruction of a bridge on the International Railroad, near Austin, Tex., on Thursday, and several trains were delayed in consequence. No lives were lost.

Last Wednesday 6,000 emigrants embarked from Liverpool for the U. S. Some more "boomers" for Oklahoma. The Cherokee territory will certainly have to be taken in, for none of them will ever dream of coming South.

A new iron foundry started up at Steubenville, Ohio, last week, which gave employment to 500 men. After working three days they "kicked" and came out on strike. It is more than likely that the strike will cause the shutting down of the foundry.

The Paris exposition will be a grand affair, the far-famed Eiffel tower—the modern rival of the Biblical tower of Babel—is now completed and has already been visited by thousands of sightseers. At \$5 a-head the tower alone will afford a handsome revenue.

Things in the horticultural portions of our State are beginning to hum—making considerably more noise this season than heretofore, owing to the most propitious season on record. Hope they may go on and prosper, for it all helps the great cause of upbuilding our State.

As Mrs. A. H. Lucas, of Carthage, Missouri, accompanied by her two daughters and a hired man, were attempting to ford a swollen creek two miles below that city in a wagon last Friday evening, the rushing waters carried the whole outfit down the raging stream and all perished, as well as the horses. No bodies have yet been recovered.

A crazy negro prisoner of Raymond, Miss., on Wednesday, while engaged on the prison farm cutting weeds, murderously assaulted his jailor, Robert Harris. Harris was engaged mending the negro's hoe, when the lunatic seized an axe, crept up behind Harris and nearly severed his head from his body. The negro fled, but was caught and locked up.

A large trans-Atlantic steamer, the Danmark, has recently been passed in a slinking condition in mid-ocean by several steamers. As all her boats were gone it was thought she had been in collision with some vessel and that her passengers had been taken off. Up to the present, however, no news whatever has been heard of the 700 passengers of the ill-fated vessel and it is feared all hands are lost. A later telegram says the passengers and crew are safe.

Considerable excitement has been occasioned in New York during the past week, the occasion being the taking down of the telegraph and telephone poles, which for a number of years have formed an "ornament" to

the streets of Gotham. The removal of these posts is a great improvement, and we wonder they have not been taken down many years ago. Several lives have been lost and several injured during the alterations.

On Friday night a dynamite cartridge, placed under the corner of a frame building next to the United States Hotel, exploded, demolishing half of the building, breaking all the windows in the U. S. Hotel and waking many people out of their sleep. The building was occupied by St. Lawson's photograph gallery, which was destroyed, and Harley & Gies's saddlery shop, which was injured. The perpetrators of the outrage are unknown, but the New Jersey, N.Y., police are making diligent inquiries.

It was rumored at Fort Smith, Ark., on Saturday that the stage running between Wagon and Walker, on the Southern border of Oklahoma and on the bank of the Canadian river, had been held up and robbed late Thursday night. The driver jumped into the river, after being shot through the arm, and reached the opposite bank nearly unconscious. He walked to Walnut Creek and stated that the passengers, two men and a boy, were in the hands of the robbers, and that the coach had been burned. The report has not been verified.

As a train of 14 loaded cars, with the Superintendent's private car attached, was descending a heavy grade between Two Harbors and Gakadine on the Duluth and Iron Range road at Duluth, Minn., the air-brakes refused to work and the train gained frightful velocity. A brakeman managed to uncouple the private car, which was soon stopped by the hand-brakes. The rest of the train rushed merrily on, reaching a speed of 130 miles an hour. Finally the train left the track, demolishing the engine and all the cars. The engineer, Chas. Culter, had both legs broken and two other men were seriously injured.

A singular express robbery is reported from Minneapolis, Minn. An express agent received a large sum of money in bullion and specie, the latter in packages. He put it on a track in the depot and wheeled it to the car door and then took all the packages off himself and placed them in his safe, setting the combination. Half-an-hour later, when at the safe he missed a package containing \$15,000. Holman, the messenger, at once notified his superior; but a close investigation failed to bring to light the missing package. Holman has been in the Express Company's employ for a number of years and has always been strictly correct and honest.

On Wednesday last, Patrick McAtamney, a switchman in the employ of the Pennsylvania railroad in Jersey City, N.Y., saw a 10-year-old boy struggling in front of an approaching car that was being backed up by an engine. McAtamney, without a moment's hesitation to think of consequences, sprang to the rescue of the boy, and in thus nobly saving the child he sacrificed his own life. Sad to relate, this gallant switchman leaves a wife and eight small children almost totally unprotected. He had been a switchman for 20 years, and was sober and industrious. The conduct of this heroic man should be partially repaid by a generous public in looking after the bereaved widow and orphans, for his gallant action is certainly fully deserving of recognition at their hands.

Rumor has it that this section of the country may be paralyzed by the imposition of minor taxes, who, it is thought will ask the courts to restrain them in possible possession of property which has by virtue of an act of the Legislature, as well as titles, passed into the hands of foreign capitalists as well as private parties. As this land has now become very valuable there is no question but that we will soon have an immense amount of litigation. We presume the legal fraternity will not object.—Tulsa Independent.

A more iniquitous piece of legislation than that known as the quarter tax bill was never formulated or passed by any law-making body, and certainly no reputable court will sustain it. Private parties buying names should beware of the Legislature. Levee Board lands, grabbed by the railroad and land syndicate at 61 cents per acre.